

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 7227

FOL TEL FROM KARACHI SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO LAHORE DATED
JULY 23 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 3518

JOINT STATE-ICA MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: EDITORS VIEWS ON PRESS FREEDOM; DEFENDING THE BAD
AGAINST THE WORSE

1. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
PAKISTAN NEWSPAPER EDITORS (CPNE) IN KARACHI
JULY 20TH POINTED OUT THE NEED TO WORK OUT AN
AGREED-UPON CODE OF PRESS ETHICS TO REPLACE THE
PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE, COMMONLY CALLED
THE PRESS LAW DURING THE BHUTTO ERA.

2. THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE
EDITORS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN THE CONTINUED
USE OF PRESS LAWS AND THEIR EFFECT ON NECESSARY
DISSENT IN A HEALTHY POLITICAL SOCIETY. THEY HAVE
ALREADY SUPPLIED DRAFTS OF A NEW LAW AND ASK FOR
A DIALOGUE WITH THE GOP TOWARD ADOPTION OF A CODE
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OF PRESS ETHICS.

3. AFTER THE MEETING, IBNUL HASAN, EDITOR OF THE
PAKISTAN ECONOMIST AND A DISTINGUISHED AND
PERCEPTIVE OBSERVER OF RECENT PAKISTANI
HISTORY, TOLD BPAO THAT IT WAS FOUND DURING
DISCUSSIONS THAT, AMONG THE EDITORS OF JANG,

PAKISTAN'S LARGEST PAPER, DAWN, IT MOST INDEPENDENT,
AND HIS OWN PRESTIGIOUS PAKISTAN ECONOMIST, NO ONE
HAD RECEIVED ANY PRESS GUIDANCES OR PRESSURES OF
ANY KIND FROM THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES SINCE
THEIR ASSUMPTION OF AUTHORITY ON JULY 5, OF LAST
YEAR. THE RELATIVE DEGREE OF FREEDOM OF THE
PRESS TODAY CAN THUS BE JUDGED IN BETTER
PERSPECTIVE BY THE FACT THAT ALL THREE OF THESE
PUBLICATIONS HAD BEEN CUT OFF FROM ALL GOVERNMENT
AND NATIONALIZED CORPORATION ADVERTISING AS A
DISCIPLINARY MEASURE AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE
BHUTTO REGIME, NOT TO MENTION THE CONTINUING
AVALANCHE OF PRESS GUIDANCE. THE PAKISTAN
ECONOMIST WAS PARTICULARLY HARD HIT BY THIS
BUREAUCRATIC EMBARGO AND NEARLY FOLDED TWO YEARS
AGO BEFORE THE ADVERTISING WAS FINALLY RESTORED.
MOORE
UNQUOTE
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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